



PART THREE.

Art Work

- OF -

CITY OF KALAMAZOO. 



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SCENE ON THE RIVER NEAR RIVERSIDE CEMETERY.



RESIDENCE OF H. H. EVERARD.

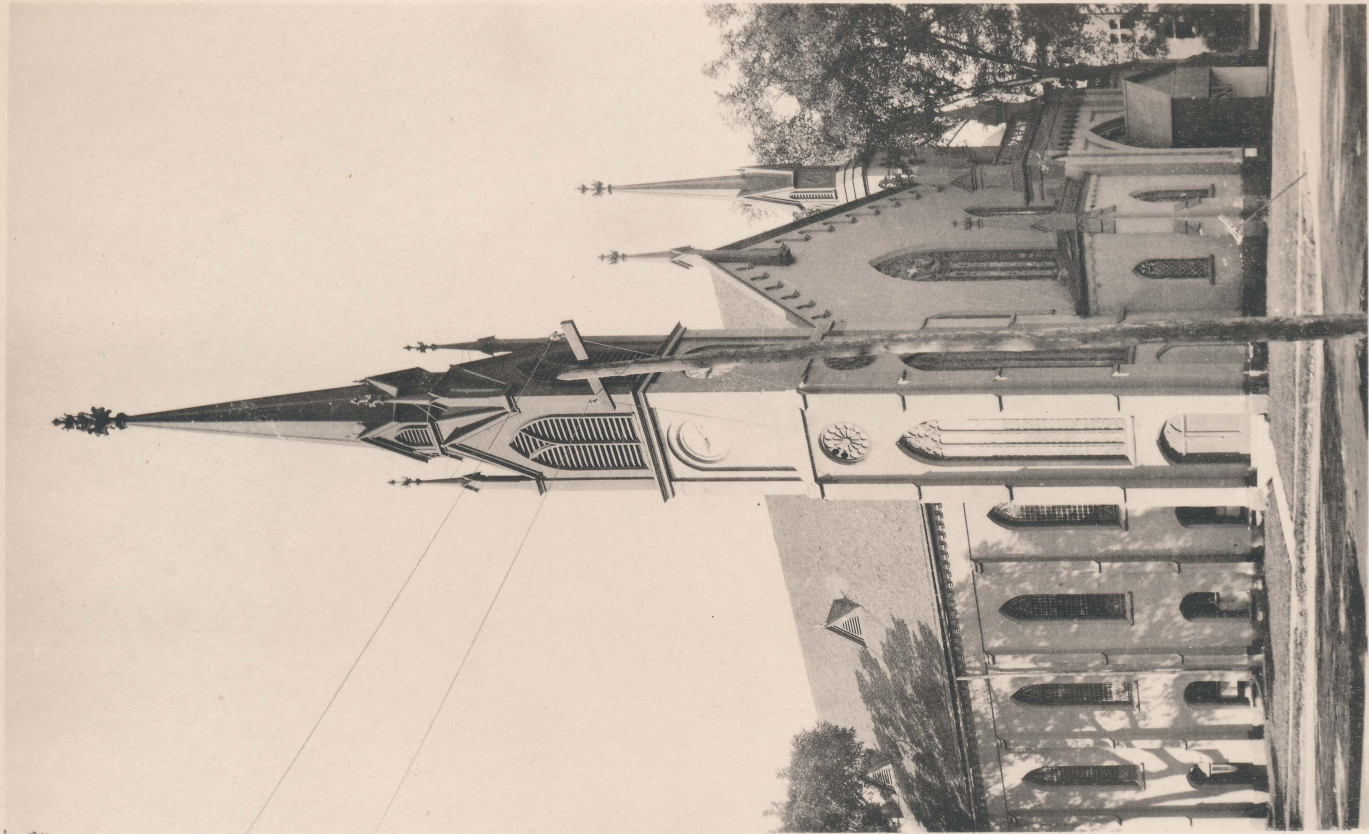


RESIDENCE OF G. W. RUSSELL.

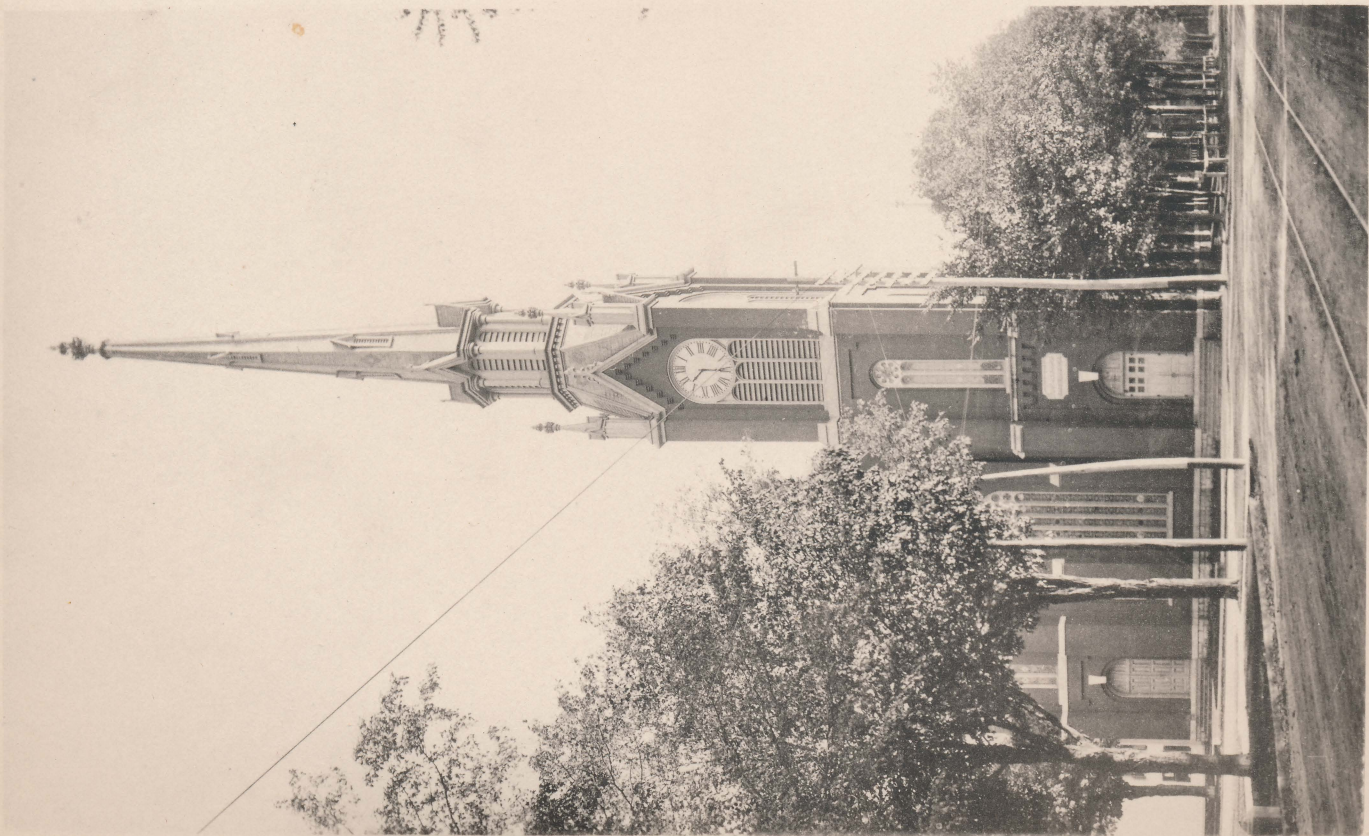


SCENE ON THE RIVER.





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.



FIRST M. E. CHURCH.



KALAMAZOO HALL, KALAMAZOO COLLEGE.

until March, 1836, when it was changed to Kalamazoo by an Act of the Territorial Legislature. Here was his great disappointment and the turning point in his fortunes. But luckily for the perpetuation of his name, his first plat of the village in 1831, had liberally provided for a church square and ground for a Park, and this beautiful and well guarded spot in the center of the present city, with its noble trees and ample lawn, its well kept flower beds and shrubbery, and its broad, deep central basin, with its plashing fountains dancing in the sunlight, with its name of "Bronson Park," will forever keep the sturdy old pioneer's name fresh and green.

Before the change in the name of the village, the Postoffice had been established in July, 1832, Dr. Jonathan G. Abbott, who died in comparatively recent years, being the first Postmaster. The first log school-house was built on South Street, in 1833. With the establishment of the Postoffice and the school, naturally came the printing press, and so in 1835, while still called Bronson, the first newspaper, with the very dignified and proper name of *The Michigan Statesman*, made its appearance—Henry Gilbert and Chandler, publishers. Afterwards the name was changed to *The Kalamazoo Gazette*. The venerable and much respected senior publisher is still living in Kalamazoo, and, as all the world knows, the *Gazette* has been for many years published and edited as a leading Democratic Newspaper, by Andrew J. Shakespeare—late Postmaster of Kalamazoo.

LATER HISTORY==A CITY CHARTER.

After March, 1836, the name Bronson disappears, and Kalamazoo then begins her history under the name she now bears. This change was by legislative enactment. The legal machinery of the new County, which bore the same name, had already been set in motion, and in 1838 the first courthouse and jail were built. Previous to that the Court had been held in a log structure and the jail—from which the first murderer escaped—was a small board shanty, located near the center of the present Park.

In 1844, in the midst of the great political campaign of that year, the first issue of the *Michigan Telegraph*, appeared, published by Henry B. Miller and George Torrey, Sr. It supported Clay and Frelinghuysen, the Whig candidates. Mr. Torrey, the father of the present well known citizen and felicitous writer of that name, who has himself been associated with the paper for a lifetime, was the first editor. This was the beginning of the *Kalamazoo Telegraph*, daily and weekly, which has been published continually ever since, first as a Whig and then as a Republican organ, and taken a leading rank in Southwestern Michigan. Right here it may be stated that to these two strong papers and party organs, has just been added another, *The Kalamazoo Daily News*, a well edited and promising independent journal, backed by ample publishing capital.

In February, 1846, occurred a most notable event in the history of Kalamazoo. In that month the Michigan Central Railroad was completed to this point and regular trains commenced arriving from Detroit. The village then contained about twelve hundred inhabitants, and the writer, then a school-boy, can remember well the excitement and enthusiasm of the time. It was a subject of great felicitation, and as the road then belonged to and was being built by the State

the Governor and many State officers were invited and attended a grand banquet and celebration in honor of the event at the Kalamazoo House, where toasts were drunk and speeches made. That seems a long time ago, but the Governor of Michigan who came to that celebration, was Alpheus Felch, who is still living in a green and honored old age at his home in Ann Arbor.

Hastening on in our story, in 1852 the first Union School building was erected and the first Board of Education chosen, and soon after the school was opened with Prof. Daniel Putnam as Superintendent. In the same year the Ladies Library Association was organized with Mrs. Ruth Webster as President. The merest mention of the beginning of these institutions must suffice here, as they will be more fully described later on in the proper place in this work.

In May, 1869, the Holly Waterworks system was contracted for by the village Board, and in November following the work was completed and the public test made. This great work will be described in its place, also, later on.

In 1882 the public sewer system was built upon the "Waring" plan, so called, and became one of those great public institutions of the city which demand a more extended description when all those works and institutions which make up the present Kalamazoo, shall be arrayed.

Up to 1883, Kalamazoo had remained a village. On the Michigan Manual for that year her name does not appear among the twenty-three incorporated cities of Michigan, which list includes such cities as Corruna, with 1,500 inhabitants; Eaton Rapids, with less than 1,800, and Dowagiac, with 2,100: while, tucked away in the great flock of villages, with their little populations of from 100 to 300 or 500, appears Kalamazoo with 13,552 inhabitants! This was the biggest village on record in America—for nearly twenty years she had been known as the "Big Village," and had seemed to be proud of the distinction. But now the joke had been carried far enough, and it was seen that this provincial modesty was a little foolish and unreasonable, and stood in the way of the growth and prosperity of the place.

So this time an effort carried for a city charter, and on June 4th, 1883, the Legislature passed the bill to take effect in April, 1884, and at the election on the first Monday in that month the new city government was put in force, with the late Hon. Allen Potter as the first Mayor—a most auspicious beginning, for never did a man better deserve the respect and confidence of his fellow townsmen than this modest, generous and estimable citizen.

THE KALAMAZOO OF TO-DAY.

With the adoption of a city charter, Kalamazoo entered upon a new life. However much that fact may have had to do with the case, certain it is that almost simultaneously with the organization of a city government, certain great improvements were effected and others planned and the heretofore staid and quiet village almost immediately began to put on the airs and appearance of a city indeed. That very year the street cars commenced running; the next year the streets and stores were lighted by electricity and connected by telephone wires in every direction. The same year the County commenced the erection of a magnificent courthouse, new streets were opened, new business blocks and stores were completed, or projected, and many fine and expensive private residences were constructed.